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NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Rhachidelus brazili Boulenger, 1908 (Squamata: Serpentes: Dipsadidae): New records, range extension and distribution map in Mato Grosso and Mato Grosso do Sul states, Brazil

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ABSTRACT: The present study reports new records of the Dipsadid snake *Rhachidelus brazili* Boulenger, 1908, from Mato Grosso and Mato Grosso do Sul states, Brazil. Our data extend the known geographical distribution ca. 713 km to the northwest and constitute the first record in the Upper Paraguay sub-basin.

The Dipsadid snake *Rhachidelus brazili* Boulenger, 1908 belongs to a monotypic genus of the Pseudoboini tribe (Peters and Orejas-Miranda 1986; Zaher 1999). It is distinguished by more than 24 dorsal scales around midbody, enlarged vertebral scales, uniformly dark brown or black dorsum, predominantly dark venter, (Peters and Orejas-Miranda 1986; Cei 1993; Giraudo 2001) and by its relatively robust body compared to other Pseudoboini species.

Bibliographic records for *Rhachidelus brazili* include northeastern Argentina (Missiones; Peters and Orejas-Miranda 1986; Cei 1993; Giraudo 2001; Giraudo and Scrocchi 2002), southeastern Paraguay (Motte *et al.* 2009) and Brazil (Peters and Orejas-Miranda 1986) from Distrito Federal (Nogueira 2001; França and Araújo 2007; França *et al*. 2008), Goiás (Fernandes and Passos 2002; França and Araújo 2007; Moreira *et al.* 2009; Valdujo *et al.* 2009), São Paulo (Boulenger 1908; Lizaso 1984; Sawaya *et al.* 2008), Paraná (Moura-Leite *et al.* 1996), Minas Gerais (Silveira 2004), Rio Grande do Sul (Lema 1994) and Mato Grosso do Sul (Amaral 1978). *Rhachidelus brazili* has not been reported from Mato Grosso.

Herein we report three new records and a distribution map for *Rhachidelus brazili* in the states of Mato Grosso and Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil (Figure 1), extending the known geographical distribution of the species to *ca.* 713 km northwestern from the nearest record in Brazil at Parque Nacional das Emas in the state of Goiás (Valdujo *et al*. 2009). Voucher specimens were obtained from donations of local people and collaborators or collected by the authors in the field (IBAMA permits number: 02001.007079/2010-03), and are housed in the Coleção Zoológica de Vertebrados do Instituto de Biociências da Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso, Cuiabá (UFMT-R): 1 – Cuiabá, Mato Grosso (15°35' S, 56°05' W) UFMT-R 5465; 2 – Vale de São Domingos, Mato Grosso (14°57' S, 59°02' W) UFMT-R 9385 (Figure 2); 3 – Sonora, Mato Grosso do Sul (17°34' S, 54°45' W) UFMT-R 1913.

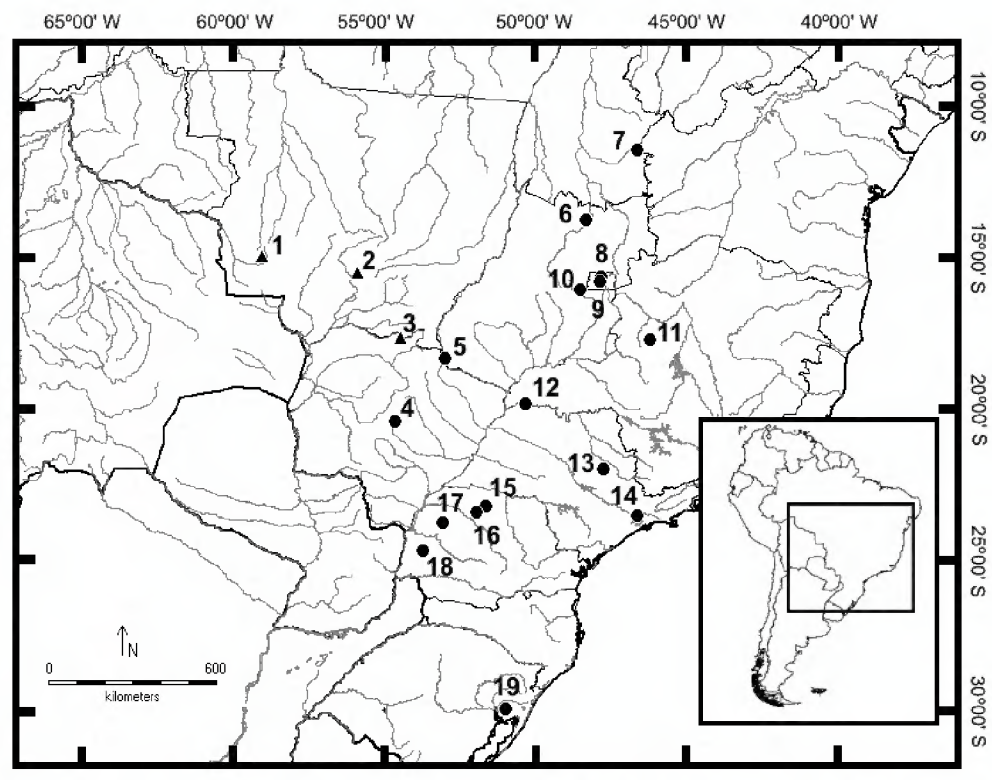

FIGURE 1. Geographic distribution map of *Rhachidelus brazili* in Brazil. Triangles represent the new records, and circles bibliographical records: 1 – Vale de São Domingos, Mato Grosso (this paper); 2 – Cuiabá, Mato Grosso (this paper); 3 – Sonora, Mato Grosso do Sul (this paper); 4 – Campo Grande, Mato Grosso do Sul (Amaral 1978); 5 – Parque Nacional das Emas, Goiás (Valdujo *et al*. 2009); 6 – Serra da Mesa, Goiás (Moreira *et al*. 2009); 7 – São João da Aliança, Tocantins (Fernandes and Passos 2002); 8 – Fercal, Distrito Federal (França and Araújo 2007); 9 – Distrito Federal (França and Araújo 2007; França *et al*. 2008; Nogueira 2001); 10 – Alexânia, Goiás (França and Araújo 2007); 11 – João Pinheiro, Minas Gerais (Silveira 2004); 12 – UHE Água Vermelha, São Paulo (Lisazo 1984); 13 – Itirapina, São Paulo (Sawaya *et al*. 2008); 14 – São Paulo, São Paulo (Boulenger 1908); 15 – Astorga, Paraná (Moura-Leite *et al*. 1996); 16 – Maringá, Paraná (Moura-Leite *et al*. 1996); 17 – Cruzeiro do Oeste, Paraná (Moura-Leite *et al*. 1996); 18 – Toledo, Paraná (Moura-Leite *et al*. 1996); 19 – Gravataí, Rio Grande do Sul (Lema 1994).

Figure 2. A juvenile *Rhachidelus brazili* (UFMT-R 9385) collected in Vale de São Domingos, Mato Grosso, Brazil. Photo by R. W. Ávila.

The new records are in the plateaus of Pantanal in the Upper Paraguay sub-basin, constituting the first records of the species in the region, although Amaral has reported the occurrence of the species in the municipality of Campo Grande, Mato Grosso do Sul (in the past Mato Grosso; Amaral 1978) this locality is in the Paraná sub-basin. The municipalities of Sonora and Cuiabá are in the Cerrado biome and Vale de São Domingos is in a transitional area between Cerrado and Amazonian biomes.

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